

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

STERIS Sterility Maintenance Products offers a line of sterility maintenance bags that provide additional protection for wrapped items after sterilization. STERIS sterility maintenance bags are made of clear polyethylene, come with a convenient self-seal adhesive strip, are notched for easy opening, and are available in a range of sizes.

Sterility maintenance bags can be supplied sterile (ethylene oxide or gamma irradiation processed) and can be packaged according to end-user requirements. The items are packaged within a rigid Tyvek and Mylar film pouch that has a thickness of 2.35-2.50 mil.

**FEATURES**

**BENEFITS**

- Self-seal adhesive strip
- Notch for tear opening
- Transparent film

- No heat sealer required
- Clean, easy opening
- No scissors or other tools required
- Unobstructed view of bag contents

**TECHNICAL PROPERTIES**

<b>Material</b>	Polyethylene	
<b>Caliper (thickness)</b>	2.75 mil, typical value	
<b>Nominal sizes</b> <i>First dimension is the width of the open side</i>	8 × 12 in	203 × 305 mm
	10 × 15 in	254 × 381 mm
	12 × 20 in	305 × 508 mm
	16 × 22 in	406 × 559 mm
	16 × 30 in	406 × 762 mm
	24 × 30 in	610 × 762 mm
	25 × 37 in	635 × 940 mm
	40 × 52.5 in	1016 × 1333.5 mm

**APPLICATIONS AND USAGE**

Sterility maintenance bags serve as a practical, cost effective way to protect post-sterilization parts during transport and storage. Covering a wrapped item upon removal from the autoclave with a sterility maintenance bag allows the air quality of the associated cleanroom to be preserved within the bag. Wrapped items within the sealed sterility maintenance bag can then be transported through lower classified areas, without risk of contamination. Furthermore, when sterility maintenance bags are covering items passing through a material handling airlock, more aggressive surface disinfection measures are possible given the sterility maintenance bag material of construction. The sterility maintenance bags do not allow disinfectant permeation, compared to the breathable materials typically used as sterilization wrapping.

The use of sterility maintenance bags provides increased protection to sterilized parts without the addition of double or triple bagging prior to the autoclave process, which may impact autoclave cycle parameters or require requalification/revalidation work. Since the sterility maintenance bags are only applied after the part or component has been sterilized, these bags do not need to be included in the autoclave validation. Furthermore, since the sterilized items are not double or triple bagged while in the autoclave, the effect of additional bag layers on the effectiveness of steam penetration need not be considered.

Another critical application for sterility maintenance bags is the protection of VHP-sensitive products. VHP-sensitive parts or components that are used inside isolators or restricted access barrier systems (RABS) can be wrapped in sterility maintenance bags prior to being placed inside the isolator or RABS. VHP can then be used to decontaminate the isolator or RABS, and the sterility maintenance bags removed afterwards.

Sterility maintenance bags are available in a wide range of sizes as seen in Figure 1 and can be packaged according to end-user preferences.



**Figure 1: Example sizes of sterility maintenance bags**

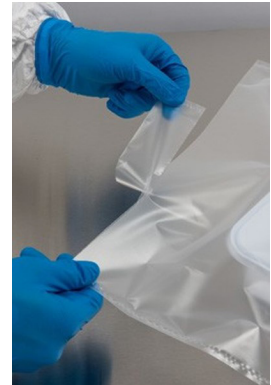
Once the items are placed in the sterility maintenance bag (Figure 2), the self-seal adhesive strip seals the bag to protect the contents, as seen in Figure 3. The sterility maintenance bag is easily opened by pulling the bag material at the notched location at one end of the bag, as seen in Figure 4.



**Figure 2: Item inserted into the sterility maintenance bag**



**Figure 3: Self-seal adhesive strip**



**Figure 4: Opening the sterility maintenance bag**

## **STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE**

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STERIS sterility maintenance bags should be stored under cool and dry conditions.

Expiration date for all products: The expiration date is printed on the label and is 36 months from the date of manufacture.

## **SERVICE**

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### **Sales**

Service is one of the most important ways to verify consistent quality of the facility's performance and operation. A tailored service program by STERIS provides effective, trouble-free operations.

### **Technical**

STERIS is pleased to provide a completely staffed and equipped technical service laboratory capable of performing needed tests and providing both telephone and on-site assistance when needed. More details on how this service can benefit a facility's particular situation can be provided upon request.

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**For further information, please contact:**



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